

Practice News-February/March 2006

Welcome New Patients

We welcome existing and new patients to this section of the website. We are glad you are interested in our practice and please feel free to contact any one of us via phone or e-mail for any questions you may have. You may also stop by and see us for an office tour at your convenience during our regular hours or after hours by appointment.

Laser use in practice

Our practice has recently incorporated a new technology into our treatment. It is a small laser named the Diagnodent. This tool enables Dr. Stahly to see into the small grooves in your back teeth. The laser is shone down into the groove and if soft decay is detected, a number reads on the screen. Based on the patient and the history of their teeth, the value of that number helps Dr. Stahly decide whether that tooth has a cavity that needs filled. Often the tooth need not be filled, just monitored and checked again at the next cleaning visit. The process is very conservative-no drilling-and if it is determined that a filling is required, the filling is often very small. The use of the Diagnodent is not, in itself, the only means by which we detect cavities in teeth. Radiographs are also very important. Visual inspection of the teeth with a mirror also is used. The decay history and age of the patient plays a factor as well. We have used all these methods in the past. Therefore, the Diagnodent is simply one more way that we are using the latest technology to improve our patient care.

Esthetic Procedures

With the start of the New Year people often begin to think about changing their look. This change is not limited to weight loss. New hairstyles and new clothes are also on many people's agenda. Add changing tooth appearance to this list. There are many options available to change both the color and shape of certain teeth. Our whitening options are explained in an archived article posted earlier on this website. Please see that article for details. The first of the year is also an excellent time to see an orthodontist for a consult on tooth movement. Our office would be glad to help with whatever your cosmetic or functional desires may be.

Dr. Jeff Stahly

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